

Dr. Koplan is simply an exemplary public servant who has made many personal sacrifices to advance public health. He is a man of great integrity, dedication, and humor. I, along with many Members of Congress, will greatly miss his leadership at CDC, and I wish he and his family all the best as they move on to other pursuits. In closing, just as Dr. Koplan received a standing ovation by CDC employees upon the announcement of his appointment as Director in 1998, upon his departure, I applaud his distinguished tenure and the honor that he has brought to that position.

HONORING DR. JEFFREY P.
KOPLAN

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 26 years of service that Dr. Jeffrey P. Koplan has dedicated to improving the public health and the many contributions he has made at the Department of Health and Human Services.

At the end of March of this year, Dr. Koplan stepped down from the dual positions he held since 1998 as the director of the Centers of Disease Control and prevention (CDC) and the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic substances and Disease Registry.

As the Chairman of the appropriations subcommittee responsible for funding the CDC, I have come to know Dr. Koplan during one of the most challenging times in public health—the events of September 11, 2001, the following anthrax attacks, and the urgent call for public health preparedness for possible further bioterrorism attacks.

Dr. Koplan has done a tremendous job leading the CDC response to this national crisis, which included deploying dozens of epidemiologists to New York City to assist the health departments with the response to the attack on the World Trade Center, dispatching personnel and medical supplies to aid the response efforts to the attack on the Pentagon, and coordinating a public health response to prevent, detect and treat anthrax. We are still in the midst of building capacity for an adequate public health response for potential terrorist attacks, but many of the needed improvements are well underway thanks in large part to his leadership.

In addition to responding to terrorist threats, under the leadership of Dr. Koplan, CDC has responded to hundreds of requests from state, local and international health departments to investigate the outbreak of diseases such as West Nile virus, Ebola, tuberculosis, meningitis and other health threats. Just last spring I experienced first hand the response and leadership of the CDC in my own congressional district during a frightening meningitis outbreak. The presence of the CDC on the scene helped to address this situation and bring calm to the community.

Dr. Koplan has also led CDC efforts to reduce tobacco use, improve childhood immunization, prevent birth defects and chronic diseases, and upgrade CDC buildings and facilities. These important efforts are bringing improved health to our nation.

When I visited the CDC in Atlanta last year, I was impressed with the commitment of all of

the CDC doctors, scientists, and employees who are pursuing their mission with pride and enthusiasm, and it was evident that that attitude emanates from the top.

In short, CDC plays a critical role in protecting the public health of our nation. From the earlier days of his career working on the eradication of smallpox as an EIS officer to rebuilding the public health system to respond to the health threats of the 21st century as director of CDC, Dr. Koplan has tackled these many tough problems with determination. We will greatly miss his spirit, optimism, and leadership. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE YMCA

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to laud the efforts of one of the finest international organizations in our nation: the YMCA. The YMCA was founded in England and was based on an openness which transcended class lines. In its 150 years, the YMCA of the USA has come to include men, women and children regardless of race, religion or nationality.

The United States of America today has over 2,400 YMCAs which serve nearly 18 million people. The YMCA of the USA is involved in promoting healthy behaviors in youngsters, teaching them how to become positive members of society. Although each YMCA is different in its approach to serving the needs of its members, they all help make their communities stronger.

The YMCA of Springfield, Massachusetts was founded on May 3, 1852, after J.R. Hixon issued a call for a meeting at the Old First Church on Court Square. Henry Morris, a prominent judge from the area, was elected the first president. Springfield's YMCA is noteworthy for being the workplace of Mr. James Naismith. In 1891, Mr. Naismith was charged with the physical education of a number of rambunctious young men. As the boys were not interested in the typical winter time activities, Mr. Naismith invented a new game to be played indoors. Mr. Naismith posted 13 rules at class one day and created the sport of basketball.

The invention of basketball is an example of the creative thinking that is the hallmark of the YMCA. The staff members roaming the halls of Ys throughout the country are a dedicated group focused on character development and social service.

Today's YMCA in Springfield continues to serve human needs in the city by providing quality programs that promote lifelong personal growth and the balanced development of spirit, mind and body. I would like to thank Steve Clay, the President, and his staff for their tireless dedication and commitment to the community. Congratulations to the YMCA on 150 years of service to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday evening April 30, 2001, I was in my District due to a family emergency and as a result missed three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 119 (On a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 386—"Supporting a National Charter Schools Week") "yea."

Rollcall No. 118 (On a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—S. 2248—"To Extend the Authority of the Export-Import Bank until May 31, 2002") "yea."

Rollcall No. 117 (Suspend the Rules and Agree to Senate Amendments—H.R. 169—"Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act") "yea."

COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in somber remembrance of the horrors of the Armenian Genocide. It is essential to reflect on the evils of the past to ensure that historical lessons are properly understood. It is in an effort to accomplish this that I call on my colleagues, as well as the international community, to remember and recognize the genocide of over a million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire.

During the end of the Ottoman Empire, the Armenian people were the victims of an atrocity of a horrifying magnitude. As many as 1.5 million were massacred through forced exile and murder. Refugees were scattered throughout the region and many found their way to the United States. As events during the Holocaust, as well as in Rwanda and Bosnia, have demonstrated, we have yet to fully internalize the lessons taught us by the dehumanizing actions of the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians. Human rights violations and discrimination due to ethnic background are still prevalent throughout the world. As such it is more important than ever that the genocide experienced by the Armenians is recognized by the world community. It is only through such recognition that we as a society can begin to ensure that such events will not happen again. In line with this goal, I specifically call on the country of Turkey to formally recognize the genocide.

I join with the Armenians today in sad remembrance of the horrible crimes committed against their people. I appreciate the support that the Armenian people have demonstrated as our own nation has dealt with the horrors of September 11. I am confident that the friendship between Armenia and the U.S. will continue to flourish as we work together for freedom and prosperity in both our nations.